

Ms. Lucille Wood
East Central Community College
P.O. Box 129
Decatur, Mississippi 39327-0129

March 16, 2009

Dear Lucille,

I am honored that you would want to nominate me for the ECJC Alumnus of the Year for 2009. I have enclosed the package of information and a recent photograph as requested. This is the same photo, by the way, that my wife has posted in the backyard to keep predators away from our bird feeder. If you need more information, please let me know.

I am ever grateful to you for taking the lead in accessioning my books into the ECCC Library. It really gives me a warm feeling to have the books available at the library, and I hope they contribute in some small way to student interest in history and creative writing.

Thanks a bunch for your long-standing support and friendship. That means a lot to me.

Your friend,


Warren Trest

Biographical Sketch:

Warren A. Trest

Author/Historian Warren A. Trest was born in Louisville, Mississippi, on February 13, 1931. He graduated from Louisville High School in 1949, and served a year with the U.S. Navy, 1949-50. He then attended East Central Junior College and graduated in 1952. At ECJC nonpareil professors such as Mrs. W.W. Newsome and Miss Sara Woodward instilled in him a love for the creative arts and opened the door to a lifetime of studying, writing, and publishing. Etched in his memories of ECJC, not only did the ECJC faculty and staff guide students' studies but enriched their lives, helped mold their character, and gave them confidence in themselves and their abilities. Warren recalls that his studies and campus life at ECJC prepared him well for the journey ahead.

He joined the U.S. Army during the Korean War and served eighteen months (1952-54) with HQ Third Infantry Division in Korea as an Army combat correspondent writing stories for *The Rock of the Marne* and *Pacific Stars & Stripes* newspapers. *Pacific Stars & Stripes* published his first short story "Three Wise Guys" in 1953. His military awards and decorations included the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service, and the Korean Service Medal. He also received the Freedom Foundation award in 1953 for an essay, "What America Means to Me."

After the war he continued his undergraduate studies by enrolling at the University of Southern Mississippi at Hattiesburg. He graduated from Southern Miss with a BS in English Literature in 1957, and spent the next four years as an assistant field director with the American Red Cross in the southeastern United States and overseas. In 1961 he was selected for a federal service position as historian for the Commander 314th Air Division/Air Forces Korea, where he published four official histories and a monograph on labor protests and demonstrations around U.S. air bases in Korea. In 1964 he transferred to Tachikawa Air Base, Japan, as the support wing historian. While there he produced annual histories and a special study on community relations with the Japanese.

Based on his performance in Korea and Japan, he was selected for a special history team studying the use of air power in the Vietnam War. The team, named Project CHECO (Current Historical Examination of Combat Operations) was under HQ Seventh Air Force in Saigon, and was tasked by HQ Pacific Air Forces in Hawaii and the Air Staff in Washington, D.C. He served two years (July 1966-June 1968) in Vietnam, and authored more than a dozen CHECO studies on the air war. Recognized for his work in Vietnam, he received the Pacific Air Forces civilian of the year award in 1967, and the Medal for Civilian Service in Vietnam in 1968.

Returning from the war zone he joined the CHECO office at HQ Pacific Air Forces, where he published two special historical studies—one on Strategic Air Command's bombing operations against North Vietnam and another on the *U.S.S. Pueblo* crisis in Korea. In 1969 he helped organize and guide Pacific Air Force's efforts in support of Project CORONA HARVEST, the United State Air Force Chief of Staff's evaluation of lessons learned in the Vietnam War. With the CORONA HARVEST team, he produced a series of high-level studies on Air Force doctrine and combat operations in Southeast Asia.

Upon completion of CORONA HARVEST, he transferred to South Ruislip, England, as command historian for HQ Third Air Force. In 1971 he was reassigned to Wiesbaden, Germany, as deputy command historian for United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE). A year later he was promoted to Chief, Office of History, and moved with the headquarters to Ramstein Air Base, Germany. As command historian he revitalized the USAFE history program—overseeing the production of both timely organizational histories and contemporary historical studies. He oversaw the completion of seven major historical studies on a variety of topics: (1) Command and Control of Airpower in Central Europe; (2) USAFE and the Commitment to NATO; (3) USAFE Actions in the October 1973 Middle East Crisis; (4) The USAFE Energy Conservation Program; (5) USAFE Dual-Based Forces, 1966-1974; (6) USAFE Actions during the Cyprus Crisis; (7) USAFE Historical Highlights, 1945-1974. His achievements were recognized by the Department of the Air Force with the Award for Meritorious Civilian Service, June 1973-January 1975.

Returning home from Europe in 1975, he was assigned to HQ Air Training Command in San Antonio, Texas, as chief historian. Four years later he was named Chief of the Histories Division at HQ United States Air Force in Washington, D.C. Under his leadership the Histories Division undertook a series of new volumes on Air Force history including a seminal two-volume, boxed History of the United States Air Force titled *Winged Shield, Winged Sword*. He and other historians contributed chapters to the two volumes, edited by Bernard C. Nalty.

In 1983 he accepted the position of Air Force Senior Historian with the USAF Historical Research Center (HRC), collocated with the Air University at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. The freedom of study and ready access to the holdings at HRC--the archives for all USAF worldwide unit histories, oral histories, and official documents--made it a historian's dream. It allowed him to lecture and to contribute unstintingly to the body of literature on the Air Force and its antecedents. A lasting contribution to the Air Force, and perhaps most useful, is a compact, 330-page volume titled *Air Force Roles and Missions: A History*. This seminal work, published by the Air Force upon his retirement in 1996, is on the Air Force Chief of Staff's reading list. A valuable study guide for students and scholars at the Air University, the book is referenced by commanders at the highest levels (See Attachments 1 and 2). His other published writings while Senior Historian include:

1. *Military Unity and National Policy: Some Past Effects and Future Implications* (Air University Press: 1991)

2. "Nuclear War and Arms Control," Chapter XX in *A Guide to the Sources of United States Military History (Supplement II)*, edited by Donald J. Mrozek and Robin Higham (The Shoe String Press, 1986)

3. "The U.S. Army Air Corps and the United States Air Force, 1909-1988" and "Nuclear War and Disarmament," Chapters XV and XX in *A Guide to the Sources of Military History (Supplement III)*, edited by Mrozek and Higham. (The Shoe String Press, 1993)

4. Various essays in *Historical Dictionary of the U.S. Air Force*, edited by Charles D. Bright (Greenwood Press, 1992)

5. "Air Force Sources: Rethinking the Air War," Chapter 14 in *The Korean War: Handbook of the Literature and Research*, edited by Lester H. Brune (Greenwood Press, 1996)

6. "The Legacy of Halfway Unification," *Air University Review*, Sep/Oct 1986.

7. "Projects CHECO and Corona Harvest: Keys to the Air Force's Southeast Asia Memory Bank," *Aerospace Historian*, Summer 1986.

8. "Scores of Pilots, Clouds of Planes," *Aerospace Power Journal*, Summer 1987.

9. "Four Decades of Global Deterrence," *Aerospace Historian*, Fall 1987.

10. "View From the Gallery: Laying to Rest the Admiral's Revolt of 1949," *Air Power History*, Spring 1995.

Upon his retirement, the Department of the Air Force recognized his achievements with the Outstanding Civilian Career Service Award in 1996. In 2006 the Office of Air Force History named the Warren Trest Award for the best annual history in his honor (Attachment 3). Since retiring he has continued to lecture and publish on Air Force and Southern history. In 2000 the Smithsonian Institution Press released his book, *Air Commando One: Heinie Aderholt and America's Secret Air Wars*, which was nominated for the Bancroft Prize for Distinguished Works in History. The following year NewSouth Books published a book he coauthored with Don Dodd, titled *Wings of Denial: The Alabama Air National Guard's Covert Role at the Bay of Pigs*. In 2002 he contributed Section 4: "The United States Air Forces in Europe" in *The Air Force*, edited by General James P. McCarthy, USAF (Ret.) and Colonel Drue DeBerry, USAF (Ret.) and published by Hugh Lauter Levin Associates, Inc. Court Street Press published his work of fiction titled *Missing in Paradise* in 2003.

His latest published work is *Nobody But the People: The Life and Times of Alabama's Youngest Governor*, a biography of former Governor John M. Patterson. The Patterson biography was published in March 2008 by NewSouth Press, and has been nominated for the Alabama Historical Association's James F. Sulzby Award. Since the book's appearance, he has been touring the state with former Governor Patterson, lecturing on the book (Attachments 7-11). Highlighting their tour was a lecture they delivered at the University of North Alabama's Distinguished Events Series in November 2008 (Attachment 5). Former Alabama Governor Albert P. Brewer praised the book and congratulated Governor Patterson on "this splendid biography that aptly depicts your distinguished life and service" (Attachment 6).

The author is presently working with Lieutenant General Charles G. "Chick" Cleveland (USAF, Ret.) on a biography of this famed Air Force general. A 1949 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, General Cleveland had a distinguished career in the United States Air Force. He was a jet fighter ace in the Korean War, served on the frontlines of the Cold War, and completed his career as commander of the Air University. Since retiring in 1984 he has been a pillar of the community and has served with distinction in a number of state posts.

Warren resides in Montgomery, Alabama, with his wife Kyung. They have three children. Their daughter, Myong, is married and lives in Boston, Massachusetts. Their son Tom resides in Montgomery. Their youngest son John and his wife Breane, both successful artists, live in Birmingham. John and Breane are expecting twin daughters in May.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, DC

1 November 2005

To my fellow Airmen,

Our Air Force has an incredible heritage ... a heritage built on courage, valor, brilliance, and perseverance. The new CSAF reading list captures this rich history. Frankly, the stories will not only fill you with pride, but they are also intense and compelling. Many of the great Airmen of the past, including Billy Mitchell and Hap Arnold, made time to read and study military history. They used the knowledge to understand their world as it was and to see the possibilities of what it could become.

This first portion of the new CSAF Reading List captures the stories and visions of our founding fathers and Air Force Pioneers. Through the next four years, the Reading List will change, journeying from our past to our future horizons. The books will be available through our schools at Air University and our Air Force libraries. You can access the reading list, complete with links and book reviews, at www.af.mil/library/csafreading/. Some of these books are among my own personal favorites, and I hope you will enjoy them as much as I have.

As we tackle all the challenges facing us today, I have no doubt we will succeed. We have done it before, and we will do it again. Our history proves our success is not founded on our technology, but on our Airmen. You are what makes this Air Force the most powerful Air Force in the world; our Nation is proud of who you are and what you have done, and I am proud to serve along side of you. Keep up the great work.

T. MICHAEL MOSELEY
General, USAF
Chief of Staff

CSAF READING LIST – FALL 2005

Our Military History

- A History of the American People - Paul Johnson
- 1776 - David McCullough
- General George Washington: A Military Life - Edward G. Lengel
- Victory at Yorktown: The Campaign that Won the Revolution - Richard M. Ketchum
- Crucible of War: The Seven Years' War and the Fate of Empire in British North America - Fred Anderson

Our Air Force Heritage

- Billy Mitchell: Crusader for Air Power - Alfred F. Hurley
- A Question of Loyalty: Gen Billy Mitchell and the Court-Martial that Grippped the Nation - Douglas Waller
- Winged Defense: The Development and Possibilities of Modern Air Power Economic and Military - William Mitchell
- Air Power: The Men, Machines, and Ideas that Revolutionized War, From Kitty Hawk to Gulf War II - Stephen Budiansky
- The Influence of Air Power upon History - Walter J. Boyne
- Air Force Roles and Missions: a History - Warren A. Trest

Dad,

Forwarding this to you in case you didn't get a copy.

-----Original Message-----

From: Kelly, Brian T Col USAF ACC ACC/DS [mailto:Brian.Kelly@langley.af.mil]

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2008 6:40 PM

To: watrest@authorwarrentrest.com

Cc: Smith, John Q Civ USAF ACC ACC/HO

Subject: FW: Contact info for Warren Trest

Dr Trest: just wanted you to know your book came in handy for a CORONA Roles and Missions discussion Gen Corley was part of last week. He held the book up when he was presenting and Gen Moseley ordered up copies for all the 4 stars. I got COMACC's new one, because he kept the one I'd high-lighted and given to him. He had further high-lighted and dog-eared it quite a bit himself. Now I'll have to start over with my clean copy...

Darn good reference! Thanks.

Col Brian T. Kelly
Director of Staff, HQ ACC

Greetings to Warren Trest--I'm writing to you with the good news that the Air Force History and Museums Program is naming one of its awards after you. Dick Anderegg, the director of Air Force History, has thought for some time that the program should do a better job of recognizing the good work being done at our higher headquarters history offices and we've created some new awards to do that. Among them, the Warren Trest Award will be presented to the direct reporting unit or field operating agency that has written the best annual history during the past year. We're still working on revising the Air Force Instruction that will include this new award, but the decision has been made and I thought that you'd like to know about it. ... I got your e-mail address from Herm Wolk who, like you, is enjoying his retirement. Last March he and Sandy, like Stephanie and me, traveled down to Lakeland, Florida for the Tigers spring training, and we're all wallowing in the team's successful season so far. Herm sends his regards. All the best--
Perry Jamieson

Perry D. Jamieson, PhD
Senior Historian

Air Force Roles and Missions: A History

Authors: Warren A. Trest; OFFICE OF AIR FORCE HISTORY WASHINGTON DC

Abstract: The twentieth century witnessed the emergence of three-dimensionality in war: surface forces flow became prey for attackers operating above and below the earth and its oceans. The aerial weapon, prophesied for centuries, became a reality, as did air power projection forces. This insightful book by Warren A. Trest traces the doctrinal underpinnings of the modern United States Air Force, the world's only global air force. We the men and women who serve in the Air Force, but also our fellow airmen in America's other military services are the heirs and beneficiaries of a long heritage of doctrinal development and military thought. Our predecessors pursued a vision of airborne global reach and power that often put them at odds with those who could not break free of the confines of conventional thought and lock-step traditionalism. Fortunately, they had the courage of their convictions and the faith in their vision to continue to pursue the goal of global air power despite such resistance. Today, America is a genuine aerospace power, and that pioneering vision dating to the days of the Wright brothers, has expanded to encompass operations in space and between the mediums of air and space. As we approach the new millennium, it is well to ponder the lessons and the history of how a small group of truly gifted airmen transformed their nation's military establishment, and, in so doing, the world around them.

Limitations:

✓ APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

Pages:

346

Report Date:

1998

Report Number:

A454674


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Josh Woods, Director

GOV. JOHN PATTERSON, WARREN TREST TO SPEAK AT UNA DISTINGUISHED EVENTS SERIES NOV. 17

FLORENCE, Ala. — The University of North Alabama and the **November 7, 2008** Florence Public Library will host former Alabama Gov. John Patterson and noted author and Patterson biographer Warren Trest for the Distinguished Events Series Nov. 17. The event will begin at 7 p.m. in the UNA Guillot University Center Performance Center. Admission is free to the public.

Patterson was thrust into Alabama politics after the assassination of his father, Attorney General-elect Albert L. Patterson, in June 1954. John Patterson was elected Attorney General to carry out his father's plans for cleaning up the vice and illegal gambling that ran rampant in Phenix City. The young attorney soon gained a political following that carried him to the governor's office in January 1959. He was the state's youngest elected governor and the only candidate to ever defeat George Wallace in the gubernatorial campaign.

As governor, Patterson was a staunch supporter of Alabama's segregationist stance, leading the state's resistance to federally ordered desegregation. He later expressed regret for having not done more to help the state's African American citizens gain equal rights.

Patterson also led Alabama to notable advancements in public education, highway construction, industrial growth, law enforcement, government reform, increased old-age benefits and other areas.

Trest, former senior historian for the U.S. Air Force, has authored and coauthored more than 50 military histories and studies. In 2000, his book "Air Commando One: Heinie Aderholt and America's Secret Air Wars" was nominated for the Bancroft Prize for distinguished works in American history. Another work, "Air Force Roles and Missions: A History," was on the U.S. Air Force chief of staff's reading list for 2007. Other recent books by Trest include "Wings of Denial: The Alabama Air Guard's Role at the Bay of Pigs," coauthored with Don Dodd, and "Missing in Paradise."

For more information on UNA's Distinguished Events Series, call 256-765-4208.

University of North Alabama Distinguished Events Series presents

GOVERNOR John Patterson



appearing at
 Guillot University Center Performance Center

ADMISSION IS FREE

Call 256-765-4208 for more information or for special needs accommodations.

April 16, 2008

Dear John,

I finished reading your biography last night. I read it in about three days and had trouble putting it down. Mr. Trest did an excellent job. The book is entertaining, instructive, inspiring and provocative. I thought I knew you well, but I learned so much more and feel better informed after reading this interesting book.

The depiction of your childhood reflects the lessons of the influence of your parents and grandparents, obviously very important to you then and through the years since then. I am reminded of the practical education of Jem and Scout in *To Kill a Mockingbird* at the hands of their father and other family and friends. Character is learned in childhood, and you were blessed with great role models.

Your military service explains the development of your leadership skills. I did not realize the magnitude of your outstanding military record. You are a true hero, and I am delighted that Mr. Trest related this information so that readers would know what you are too modest to tell.

The treatment of your father's tragic death is sensitive and sobering. The heinous nature of this crime and the conditions which fostered it give the reader a vivid picture of what happens when a community is taken over by gangsters and thugs. Your conduct in the months following the tragedy is most impressive. Your determination to rid your community and your state of the cancer of organized crime is a strong example of good citizenship and dedication.

I remember well your service as Attorney General and then as Governor. I had the privilege of serving in the legislature during those terms. I appreciate the treatment of your service in these two offices, particularly with reference to your education program in 1959. I remember the intensity of the opposition to the revenue measures and your perseverance in getting the package of bills passed. I also remember with displeasure how the education forces turned on you when there was a shortfall in revenues and proration was necessary. I have referred to this numerous times in speeches about education legislation as an example of "how soon they forget." There were so many other programs, small loan regulation, highway construction, inland docks, industrial development, reapportionment and redistricting. It was an interesting time. I never thought of you as a populist, but your programs fit neatly under that category.

I never realized how much you desired to be a judge. You were the epitome of a good judge. I remember arguing a habeas corpus case before your court when you were presiding judge. Our client contended he was entitled to "good time" and that, if credited with his earned good time,

his sentence was completed. The Court could not give us bail, but you did accelerate the time for filing briefs (one week as I recall), and a decision was forthcoming (in our favor) within a matter of days. Justice was achieved with understanding and compassion. And you weren't afraid of controversy either on the court or in your other places of service. The Roy Moore case is a good example of courageous and enlightened leadership.

I remember your inauguration. Isn't that when George Johnson introduced you with an oration that was longer than your address? George was quite a guy - a cherished friend of both of us who never should have moved to Montgomery, but who was, as they say in Limestone County "all wool and a yard wide."

John, the book has captured your humanity, your love of people and your innate kindness. Your love of the land and of animals makes me think of your childhood. There's something about a child of the soil that is genuine, caring, and determined. Your life with Tina now strikes me as the fulfillment of dreams and hopes and the realization of your reward for a lifetime of noble and committed service, motivated by a desire to better the human condition in Alabama and to provide an enhanced quality of life for all our citizens.

Your relationship with blacks underscores your decency and good will toward all people. Isn't it interesting how timing affects all we do or can do? It's a tragedy that you came along when our people were so preoccupied with race that progressive leadership was overshadowed by these social problems with their negative impact on education and economic development.

You had a fine cabinet as governor, a mark of strong leadership. You gave Alabama good government as you promised. You have much to be proud of. I am honored to claim your friendship and congratulate you on this splendid biography that aptly depicts your distinguished life and service.

With admiration and respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Albert P. Brewer", written over the closing text.

The Daily Home

Former governor didn't like politics

John Patterson talks about his life as the state's youngest governor at Comer Library

By **KENDRA CARTER**
Home staff writer

SYLACAUGA — Former Gov. John Patterson never wanted to go into politics.

"I didn't like politics," he said. "I wanted to be a trial lawyer and make money."

But after his father Albert Patterson — a Phenix City lawyer who had just scant days before won the Democratic nomination for state attorney general — was gunned down outside his office, Patterson started taking the path that would eventually lead him to the governor's mansion.

Patterson, along with Warren Trest, who recently wrote a book on Patterson titled, "Nobody But the People: The Life and Times of Alabama's Youngest Governor," spoke to a crowd of some 100 people Wednesday afternoon as part of B.B. Comer Memorial Library's Brown Bag Lunch Series.

The book, which took Trest

on Patterson's life from childhood to his time on the Court of Criminal Appeals, using interviews with Patterson, as well as other individuals and political documents obtained from the state archives and Patterson's personal correspondence.

"A colleague suggested George Wallace, but I said too much had already been done on him," Trest said, adding that he'd always found Patterson's story to be interesting.

Trest is a retired senior historian for the United States Air Force who has published four other books. He met Patterson in 2001 at a seminar about the Bay of Pigs invasion and approached him about writing a biography.

After Patterson's father was murdered in the city he vowed to clean up when he was state attorney general, the younger Patterson became the first attorney general who was never elected to the position. He said the state Democratic



Bob Crisp/The Daily Home

John Patterson, now 87, was governor of Alabama from 1959 until 1963 and was the youngest man ever to hold the office.

tion, and no one else qualified to run for the position.

"I was the logical choice."

no other purpose to become attorney general."

Governor

From Page 1A

During his four years in that position, Patterson cleaned up then-corrupt Phenix City and saw men connected to his father's death brought to justice.

"It wasn't worth the death of my father to get that place cleaned up," he said. "But once it happened, you just had to make the best of it."

Patterson said sometimes talking about his father's death is still hard for him to do, even after 54 years.

"I'd done everything I could possibly do," he said. "And that's pretty hard to talk about sometimes, because my father was a good man, and he deserved a better fate."

Patterson said he remembers traveling through Sylacauga during his bid for governor in the 1950s.

"My roots are deep in this part of the state," Patterson said. He was born

in Goldville, in Tallapoosa County. His father had been principal at schools in both Clay and Coosa counties.

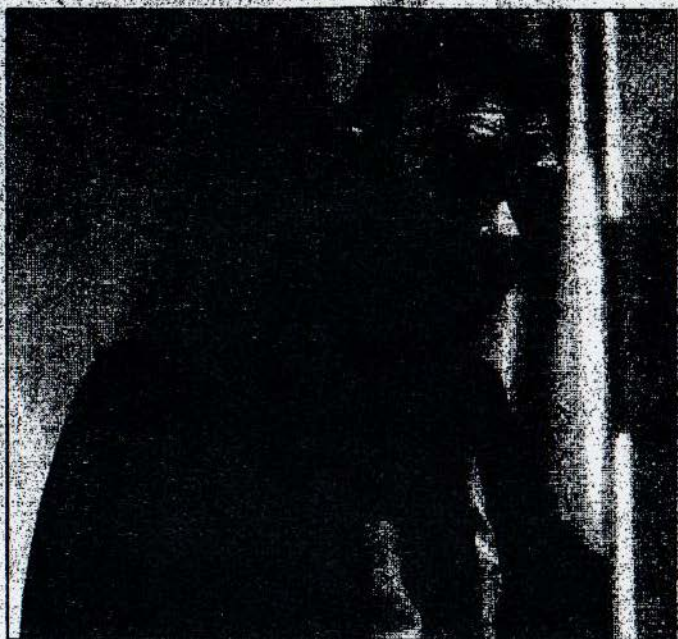
The book's title is adopted from a campaign slogan he used in the governor's race: "Nobody is for John Patterson but the people."

Defeating Wallace in the 1958 gubernatorial election, Patterson, at 37, became the youngest man to be elected governor in the state, serving a single term.

In 1984, Patterson was appointed to the Court of Criminal Appeals, where he remained until retirement in 1997.

The book was published in March, and Trest said of the book signings and appearances he and Patterson have been to in the past several months, Wednesday's presentation was one of his favorites.

"It's invigorating people in the audience, and it invigorates him," Trest said. "He



Bob Crisp/The Daily Home

Warren Trest spoke at Brown Bag Lunch Series about his book on former Gov. John Patterson.

likes to come out and talk to people."

Patterson and Trest's lecture was the fifth in the library's Brown Bag Lecture

Series.

Next week's program, titled "Old Times Are Not Forgotten," will feature storyteller Faye Brown.

INSIGHT

Nobody, but John Patterson

By John Fleming

Editor at Large

04-06-2008

MONTGOMERY — In the kindly, craggy face of John Patterson can be seen the New South governor our Alabama never had.

Pull back the layers of a not-so-musty history of pre-civil rights, Deep South-politics and root around a little. There, you'll see it: The reformer, the rural highway builder, the opener of credit to the poor, the man of the people, the populist, the leader of the vanguard of the New South — except he wasn't.

Therein lies the tragic reality of Alabama's youngest governor. Though he was most of the above, he also was the segregationist governor.

He was initiated by fire into Alabama politics when he was appointed to the office of attorney general after his crime-busting dad was assassinated in Phenix City in 1954.

He cleaned up Phenix City and went on to the governor's mansion in 1958 to clean up much of the rest of the state. Then he went about trying to fix other ills of Alabama by using an ideology more at home with today's liberal left.

Yet, he is not our early-day William Winter or our Jimmy Carter, all because of something called gradualism. Or, put more commonly, the slow-walking of integration. It was a mistake for him, and for Alabama.

Because John Patterson was not a hero prepared to ignore real politik, Alabama lived through the anguish of the confrontational policies of George Wallace.

The casual observer of John Patterson sees that. But that same observer notices Patterson as the man who oversaw Alabama's disastrous response to the Freedom Riders' tour through the state, first in Anniston, then in Birmingham, and finally in Montgomery.

The populist is underneath that version, and here dwells his true being: The one who has uttered 1,000 times how wrong he was, how sorry he is, and how remorseful he feels for not fighting for enfranchisement.

You see it in his eyes and hear it in his voice. There is no equivocation on the importance of blacks being able to vote.

Today, he comes awfully close to telling you which candidate he will support in the Democratic presidential race. "Obama (Obama) is running a good campaign ... (Hillary) Clinton is not..." he told this reporter.

Now, that underlying, differing layer of John Patterson is in the pages of a new book, *Nobody But The People*, published by New South. It's a biography by Warren Trest, a military historian and author of numerous works.

Trest has an engaging style and a way of pulling the reader along, not only with Patterson's yarns, but also with the mere telling of history. There are clunky attempts at Southern dialogue of the day; the details of the Freedom Riders in Anniston — and especially in Montgomery — need more explanation. But his achievement is to convey to Alabama, and possibly to our sister states, the essential goodness of a once-flawed man who lived on Goat Hill.

A man of the people, as Patterson likes to think of himself, first has to know the sufferings of the people. At least that came natural.

Former state Sen. Gerald Dial talked about that part of the former governor's life after listening to Trest

and Patterson speak at the State Archives here on Wednesday.

"He had that rural background," Dial said, while waiting for Patterson to sign a copy of the book. "His environment early on was dirt roads, running barefoot through the countryside. His family wasn't bad off, but when you grow up among the poor and the wanting, you just don't forget that. You don't forget the people who still suffer from it."

Yes, the governor made mistakes, Dial said, "but here's the truth: Had he been an integrationalist in 1958, they would have burned his house down."

History understood in context. But history also is littered with the sacrifices for greater, future good.

From the comfortable observation point of 2008, it is impossible to miss the obvious. If anyone could have led Alabama out of the darkness of segregation before it became our nightmare, it was Patterson, a strong, youthful reformer.

He knew better — the book makes that clear — and was raised to respect people, no matter their religion (he endorsed John Kennedy, a Catholic, for president in 1960) or color. Yet he failed to be a leader or accomplice in the greatest movement for social change in the 20th century.

Was it for pragmatism's sake, for gradualism? Or was it instead because of a lack of realization of the enormity of a moment?

Nobody But The People makes it clear that rarely has a more decent man occupied the governor's office. So perhaps the question falls to us.

With the knowledge of history, with our self-righteousness during a week when we remember the life and death of Martin Luther King Jr., comes a question: Would we do differently? To do the right thing, especially when it's not in your interest, is to be truly courageous. We should all ask more of ourselves and pray that we have it when the time comes.

That's already happened for Patterson. No one can change the past, but you can admit the essential wrongness of your actions and that of your society at the time.

That means something.

One of the few black faces in the crowd on Wednesday belonged to Joseph Caver, an archivist with the U.S. Air Force. Afterwards, he spoke of the darker side of Patterson's administration, before pushing the positive.

"He was a great man, a statesman," he said. "I can respect people like Patterson, even Wallace, people who step forward and admit they were wrong. He was a Machiavellian who regrets what he did.

"Today, he's a statesman. We need more people like him," he said.

Nobody But The People is a good but sad story. You see Alabama's chance to join the enlightened and escape the coming storm slip away during Patterson's rule. You see glimpses of what we could have been.

But the truth is more tragic.

Former governor draws crowd

By Dale Liesch

Published Thursday, September 11, 2008 12:05 AM CDT

The biography "Nothing But the People" was on display at the Adelia M. Russell Library, Wednesday along with two men who played a pivotal role in the publishing of the book.

Former Alabama Governor and Goldville resident John Patterson and author Warren Trest were on hand to speak and sign copies of the book detailing Patterson's life and ascension into politics.

Library director Judy Tidwell said the subject matter of the program and the speakers made it one of the most successful book-signings ever in terms of turnout with around 90 people filling the library.

"This is the largest crowd we've ever had at a book-signing," said Tidwell. "I think we had to use every chair in the building in order to have enough for people to sit down."

Tidwell said there were a few reasons why so many showed up to listen to stories from the book and have their copies signed.

"Patterson is a very popular person and his life is very interesting," said Tidwell. "We are very pleased with the way it turned out."

Patterson said to the crowd he thought "Nobody But the People" would be a good read for many locals because it chronicles his early life in this area.

"I had some great times here," said Patterson. "I grew up here and had a paper route here. I had the run of the town."

Patterson attributes his time in the area to helping him ascend to the governor's mansion.

"Growing up here made it possible for me to become governor," said Patterson. "I give a lot of credit to this community for making me who I am."

Warren Trest said he found the subject of Patterson's life very interesting.

"Patterson was a reluctant politician who was thrown into politics when his father was gunned down in Phenix City," said Trest. "Patterson learned the core values he carried with him throughout his life while growing up on his grandparents' farm in this area."



FORMER GOV. JOHN PATTERSON: MY STORY IS MY FATHER'S

Monday, September 22, 2008

By DAVID FERRARA

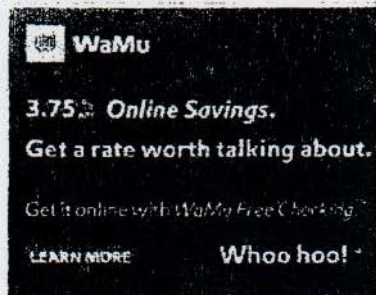
Staff Reporter

Former Gov. John Patterson wants people to remember the legacy of his father, killed while trying to kick corruption and organized crime from the east Alabama town of Phenix City.

He believes a new book about his own life, "Nobody But the People: The Life and Times of Alabama's Youngest Governor," does exactly that.

As Patterson points out, the slaying of his father, Albert Patterson, 54 years ago launched him into politics at the onset of the civil rights movement. The younger Patterson found himself among the most recognized segregationists in Alabama.

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"If it hadn't been for the murder of my father, nobody would ever have heard of me," Patterson said in a recent interview with the Press-Register, discussing the biography. "That's what got me into office. That's what got me into Montgomery."

He and Montgomery author Warren Trest, who penned the 500-page book, will discuss the governor's life and political career during a signing of the book at 2:30 p.m. Sunday at the Clarke County Museum in Grove Hill, the county seat.

The author and governor first met about six years ago at symposium on the Bay of Pigs invasion. Trest had written a book on the Cuban military action, in which four members of the Alabama National Guard were killed. As governor, Patterson was head of the state's National Guard and OK'd the release of pilots to train Cuban military.

"I noticed there was a big hole in the political history," Trest said. "A lot had been written about (George) Wallace. Patterson was the only man to defeat Wallace in a governor's race. There was a big hole with nothing on Patterson."

So they sat down at Patterson's farm in the east Alabama town of Goldville, and Trest recorded hours and hours of an oral history. He spent five years crafting the biography, which plunges deep into Patterson's red-clay roots and comfortably weaves the narrative with the governor's career in Alabama politics.

Early in the book, Trest tells the story of Malvin Jones, a bootlegger who shared sugar-bottom glasses of whiskey with Patterson's grandfather.

"When Patterson became governor, Jones still lived in the Goldville area and still made whiskey," Trest writes. "The governor told his ABC administrator, who oversaw the liquor laws in the state, about Jones and asked that he be left alone. 'Malvin ain't doing no harm to nobody. Leave him alone,' Patterson said. 'If you were to catch him, we'd have to put up the money to bail him out. Just tell your folks to stay away from him.'"

FORMER GOV. JOHN PATTERSON: MY STORY IS MY FATHER'S

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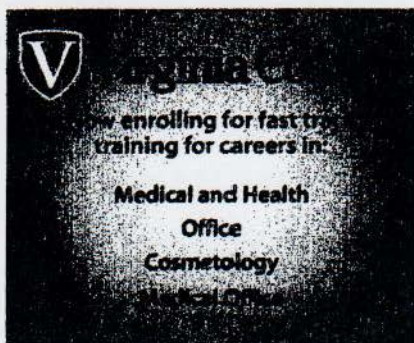
In more serious moments, Trest explores the killing of Patterson's father, for which a deputy sheriff was convicted. Then Alabama Attorney General Si Garrett was indicted along with a Russell County solicitor, but both were acquitted.

Albert Patterson, a former state senator, was slain outside his office in Phenix City soon after he won the Democratic nomination for state attorney general on a campaign promise to clean up the city. The primary victory in the Democratic stronghold of Alabama had virtually clinched an election win.

A practicing lawyer at the time, John Patterson felt he was the best person qualified to take his father's spot in that year's race for attorney general. After he won office, Patterson banned the NAACP and, with the support of the Ku Klux Klan, defeated Wallace in the 1958 gubernatorial race, becoming the youngest elected head of the state.

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(CONTINUE STORY)



Patterson, who lost another bid for governor to Wallace's wife, Lurleen Wallace, remains relatively unapologetic about not pushing to integrate Alabama schools, saying he was subject to politics of the era.

"Personally, I had no objection to integrate anything," Patterson said. "That just wasn't a fight that I was involved in.

"I wished the place had been integrated long before I had come along. You have to deal with things as you find them, not as you hope they'd be.

"I would have preferred not to have had the problem," Patterson said. "If I had started an effort to integrate schools when the law required otherwise, the Legislature would have impeached me. Getting something done politically depends on the times and the timing of it. And there was not sentiment at the time to integrate any school or college in the state."

Trest exhibits respect for the former governor and said in an interview Patterson was candid about the details of his life, "warts and all." Indeed, he gets Patterson to speak bluntly about the most controversial times he served in public office.

Trest writes, "Turning the clock back to the racial demagoguery that helped get him elected governor in 1958, Patterson said, 'In fact we were dead wrong. Black citizens were seeking their constitutional rights and were trying to better their lives. We should have helped them.'"

In 1984, Wallace appointed Patterson the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals, where he served until his retirement in 1997.

A few years ago, Gov. Bob Riley pulled Patterson from retirement and asked him to serve on a special court that would decide on an appeal from the controversial Alabama Supreme Court Justice Roy Moore, tossed from the bench after he refused to remove a statue of the Ten Commandments from the State Judicial Building.

The panel of judges asked Moore what he would do if he was reinstated, and Patterson said

he told them, "I'd do the same thing all over again."

Moore lost his appeal.

Patterson isn't as strong-minded about his past, though he exuded a passion for the place he calls home.

"I wouldn't want to be anywhere else in the world," Patterson said.

He wants to die, he said, in the same place he was born.

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Archive for the 'Nobody But the People' Category

Hats Off to Alabama Public Libraries

Thursday, December 18th, 2008

Not enough gets said about the good job many public libraries do in serving their communities with events programming. Alabama has quite a few that deserve recognition, many of which have hosted programs featuring NewSouth Books authors in the last few years. To name just a few who've partnered with us recently: the B.B. Comer Memorial Public Library in Sylacauga; the Ashland City Public Library; the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library; the Pell City Public Library; the Adelia McConnell Russell Library in Alex City; the Birmingham Public Library; the Selma-Dallas County Public Library; and the Mobile Public Library.

Our new favorite library is the Bradshaw Public Library in Valley, Alabama. Several NewSouth authors have enjoyed good audiences there as part of its "Lunch and Learn" series. On November 21, Peter Huggins spoke about his new young adult novel *In the Company of Owls* and talked about the process of creating a book. Adult Programs Coordinator John Tidwell said of Huggins's presentation, "*In the Company of Owls*, a very exciting book for all family members, was excellent! We will probably ask you to schedule Peter for a return engagement."

On December 4, former Alabama governor John Patterson and historian Warren Trest discussed *Nobody But the People*, a biography offering new insights and rich details into the life of this significant Southern politician. The crowd of almost a hundred people greatly enjoyed meeting Gov. Patterson and hearing his personal story. Mr. Tidwell observed, "The presentations by Governor Patterson and Warren Trest fascinated our Lunch and Learn group. So much so that they kept them answering questions twenty minutes after the program was scheduled to end! This was indeed a rarity! We were well-pleased." This must be true, because a reprise program featuring Governor Patterson and Warren Trest is being planned for March or April of next year.

About his experiences, NewSouth author Warren Trest had this to say: "The Valley librarians were fantastic hosts — and top of the mark in every way." We couldn't agree more.

The fruitful partnership between NewSouth and the Bradshaw Library will continue when Ted Dunagan speaks about his young adult novel *A Yellow Watermelon* on February 20, and when Rev. Robert Graetz discusses his memoir *A White Preacher's Message On Race and Reconciliation* on February 27. These noontime programs will be highlights of the library's Black History Month observation.

In the Company of Owls, *Nobody But the People*, *A Yellow Watermelon*, and *A White Preacher's Message on Race and Reconciliation* are available directly from NewSouth Books, or your favorite local or online book retailer.

NewSouth author [Warren Trest](#) and former Alabama Governor John Patterson were featured on the Tapestry radio program on May 29, 2008. They spoke about Trest's new biography of Patterson *Nobody But the People: The Life and Times of Alabama's Youngest Governor* which one reviewer calls "a thoroughly readable and fair-minded account of John Patterson's career, which was one of the most important in Alabama's recent history."

In the interview, Trest describes Patterson's father, noting that "there was no more principled man than Albert Patterson." Indeed, Trest focuses in the biography on Albert Patterson's death as the turning point in both the political and personal life of the former governor.

Also in the interview, Patterson discusses the political and social climate in regards to public school segregation into which he stepped as a political candidate. Moreover, Patterson reflects on his own civil rights record — what he considers to be the greatest failure of his political tenure: "I believe that I was in a position to really do something to bring the black community into the political process to really do something to bring the black community into the political process and by registering people to vote. I believe that I could have done that and I regret very much that I didn't do that." Patterson goes on to assert, "If you get the power to vote in the hands of the people, everything else comes along."

Listen to the full interview at the [Tapestry](#) website.

Nobody But the People: The Life and Times of Alabama's Youngest Governor is available from [NewSouth Books](#), [Amazon.com](#), or your favorite local or online book retailer.

Posted in [Nobody But the People](#) | [No Comments](#) »

Nobody But the People Excerpted in Southern Political Report

Monday, June 9th, 2008

The Southern Political Report has posted an excerpt of *Nobody But The People: The Life and Times of Alabama's Youngest Governor*, Warren Trest's authorized biography of former Alabama Governor John Patterson. The excerpt recounts the murder of Patterson's father, attorney Albert Patterson, an event that spurred John Patterson into politics and ultimately to the governorship.

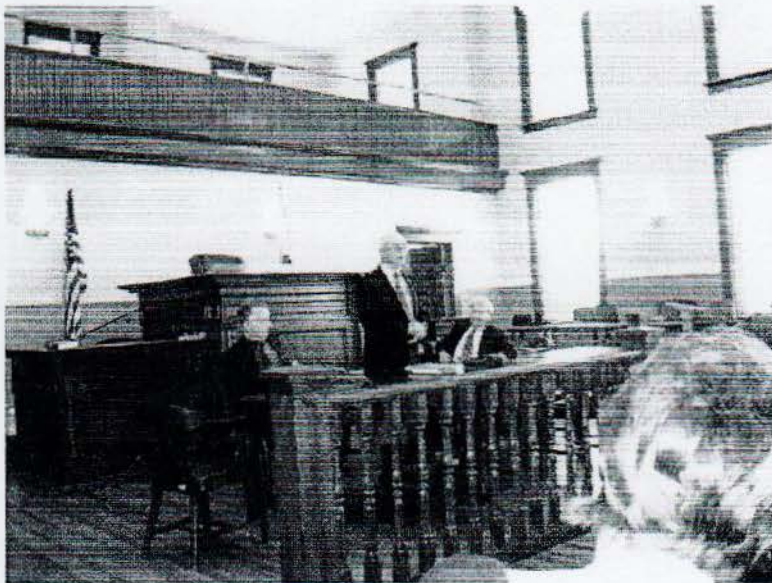
Read the entire excerpt on the [Southern Political Report](#) website.

The Washington, D.C.-based [Southern Political Report](#) has examined government and political affairs news for thirty years in thirteen states, including Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Tennessee, and Louisiana.

Nobody But The People: The Life and Times of Alabama's Youngest Governor is available from [NewSouth Books](#), [Amazon](#), or your favorite online or local book retailer.

Thursday, May 1st, 2008

Historian Warren Trest's new authorized biography of former Alabama Governor John Patterson, *Nobody But the People*, has been receiving a great deal of press coverage recently, as newspapers have detailed numerous well-received appearances made by Trest and Governor Patterson in connection with the publication. The biography offers new insights and rich details into the life of a significant Southern politician whose career touched some of the key struggles of the twentieth century civil rights movement.



The Birmingham News called Patterson's story "a gripping chapter in Alabama history" and featured an online special report through which readers could link to audio clips of Trest and Patterson's presentation at the Alabama Archives and History in Montgomery. The opportunity to hear a former governor in his own words was a key reason for attendance by school children at a book signing in Ashland, AL, according to an article in *The Anniston Star*. Reporter Andy Johns quotes First Assembly Christian School Principal Bradley Strother as saying he "hoped the students would see Patterson as an example of someone from their area who went on to the state's top political office."



In Phenix City, AL, Patterson "signed books while swapping stories with book owners and admirers," according to the Columbus *Ledger-Enquirer*. At the Central Alabama Community College, president Dr. Steven Franks said, "We are pleased to host Gov. Patterson and that he chose us for such an honor," according to *The Outlook* of Alexander City, AL. *The Anniston Star* features editor Laura Tutor reviewed *Nobody But the People*, noting that since the author worked closely with his subject, "insights, personal feelings at specific moments, are scattered throughout Trest's story." This insider perspective provided by the first authorized biography has resulted in attentive audiences at the numerous appearances by Trest and Gov. Patterson, as news reports show.

Nobody But the People is available from [NewSouth Books](#), [Amazon.com](#), or your favorite online and local booksellers.

Posted in [Nobody But the People](#) | [No Comments »](#)

Governor John Patterson Interviewed by The Montgomery Advertiser

Friday, April 11th, 2008

Kenneth Mullinax of the *Montgomery Advertiser* recently interviewed John Patterson, whose authorized biography *Nobody But the People: The Life and Times of Alabama's Youngest Governor*, by [Warren Trest](#), is now available from NewSouth Books.

Nobody But The People is the first first authorized biography of former Alabama Governor John Patterson, and tells the story of his journey from Alabama's youngest governor and WWII hero to respected judge who recanted his former segregationist ways. In the interview, Patterson gives details about his father's murder and his friendship with George Wallace.

From the interview:

What happened to your father after he was elected?

On June 18, 1954, just 17 days after winning, he was working late at his law office on Fifth Avenue in Phenix City. At 9:10 p.m., he came to the alley where his car was parked and as soon as he sat down in it, he was gunned down. He was shot by Albert Fuller, chief deputy sheriff, while Arch Ferrell — Russell County's district attorney—looked on in approval. Four shots from a .38 pistol rang out and the bullets hit my dad in his mouth, chest and arm. He was strong enough to get out of the car, but collapsed dead on the sidewalk.

Is this when you entered politics?

Yes, everyone wanted me to fill my father's term of office as state attorney general and I did so with no opposition. We soon cleaned up the city by putting in the Alabama National Guard under Gen. Walter Hanna and hundreds of people went to prison and the organized gambling ended forever. I served as attorney general from 1955 to 1959 until I got a promotion from the people.

When did you first meet George Wallace?

I first met him in 1947 when he joined me and my father for dinner at the Elite Cafe here

in Montgomery. We became instant friends and remained so for the rest of our lives, except for a few months in 1958.

What happened in 1958?

That's the year I ran for governor and Wallace and 12 other people were in the same race. Those were emotional times and I was supported by some segments of the KKK, but all the candidates, including Wallace and myself, were open segregationist in some form.

Later, when asked about his regrets, Patterson responded, "My biggest regret is I didn't bring black citizens into the political process when I was attorney general or governor."

Click [here](#) to read to the entire article and interview.

Nobody But the People: The Life and Times of Alabama's Youngest Governor is available from [NewSouth Books](#), [Amazon.com](#), or your favorite online and retail booksellers.

Brad Barnes, Ledger-Enquirer

"[A] poetic and detailed tome."

Chauncey Sparks, Doc's Political Parlor

"The book *Nobody But the People* is actually written by Warren Trest, but Patterson worked closely with Trest and has been on the circuit promoting its release. From his role in cleaning up organized crime in Phenix City, to a tumultuous term as governor, to the transition to a respected jurist Patterson's political career has had many acts and *Nobody But the People* chronicles them all."

Dale Liesch, The Outlook

"Patterson who was born in Goldville in 1921, and lived in Alexander City while his father practiced law from 1929 to 1933, said he agreed to do the biography because he wanted there to be a historical record of his family. He said the reason for the delay on having a biography published is simple." "History just can't be told about something until it is at least 50 years old," he said. "The important thing for me about the book is being able to have a historical record of my family but especially of my father."

David T. Morgan, First Draft

"This biography of John Patterson by Warren Trest offers inside stories of dramatic and monumental events in the history of Alabama. The author tells Patterson's story in a highly readable, narrative style."

Frye Gaillard, author of *Cradle of Freedom: Alabama and the Movement That Changed America*

"In *Nobody But the People*, Warren Trest has given us a thoroughly readable and fair-minded account of John Patterson's career, which was one of the most important in Alabama's recent history. As governor the state from 1959-63, Patterson's inclinations on issues ranging from public education to the building of roads were noble and progressive. But on the issue of race, he was caught in the tragic time warp of his place, and Trest explores those failings with honesty and heart. The result is a subtle portrait of a complicated man, who has had the courage to admit his mistakes. In telling this important and multi-layered story, Trest has given us a history that is vivid and alive."

James A. Cox, Midwest Book Review

"A handful of black-and-white photographs illustrate this compelling, true-life story of Patterson and the many achievements he made during his four-year administration - achievements that are all too often overlooked when examining his stance on civil rights. Highly recommended, and a welcome addition to American biography and Alabama state history collections."

Laura Tutor, The Anniston Star

"Warren Trest's account is...detailed in its documentation, with footnotes aplenty to suit any academic historian. Part of his meticulousness could be due to the intent to have this be the definitive history of Patterson's era."

Nobody But the People Excerpted in Southern Political Report

Monday, June 9th, 2008 by Josh

The Southern Political Report has posted an excerpt of *Nobody But The People: The Life and Times of Alabama's Youngest Governor*, Warren Trest's authorized biography of former Alabama Governor John Patterson. The excerpt recounts the murder of Patterson's father, attorney Albert Patterson, an event that spurred John Patterson into politics and ultimately to the governorship.

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Book Excerpt

The murder of Albert Patterson

June 8, 2008 — By Warren Trest

John worried about his father, as did the whole family. Albert refused to carry a gun even though the faceless telephone threats had become uglier and more menacing. The day before his murder a caller warned, "You've got to change your mind or you won't be here over the weekend." This was interpreted as a warning for him "not to appear before the grand jury in Jefferson County with the information he had about the vote fraud in the attorney general's race." On Thursday night he had spoken at a Methodist men's club in Phenix City where he told the audience "the odds were something like 100-1 that he would not be alive to take office in January." Despite the threats against his life, he had agreed to go to Birmingham the following Monday and tell what he knew...When the rain let up he left the hotel and started home. On the way out of town on Highway 80, he pulled off the road and stopped at the Parkmore Restaurant. He was the only customer at that hour. The waitress, a young English girl who was married to an airman stationed at Maxwell Field, said Albert sat in a booth and ordered a vanilla milkshake. He asked her to mix an egg into the milkshake, a common practice in the fifties. When she later read about his murder, she distinctly remembered another man coming in while Patterson sat in the booth drinking the milkshake. She couldn't give a description of the man, but had the distinct feeling that he knew Patterson and was following him.John had left the office before his father got back. Mary Joe and the children were at their house near Fort Benning, and he drove there from work. The tenants had moved out, and they were moving in. Mary Joe had worked all day getting the house in order. After supper John lay across the bed treading *Scottsboro Boy*, an expose of the Alabama prison system. Albert, meanwhile, had arrived back in town and gone directly to the office. It had been a long, hot drive from Montgomery. The afternoon rainstorm hadn't even settled the dust. Instead of cooling things off, the rain had left the air hot and sticky....Roughly an hour later, Albert Patterson turned off the lights and locked up. The lights going out could be seen as far away as the courthouse, and the tap of his cane on the steps would have alerted anyone lurking in the dark alley that he was coming down. When he opened the door to the Olds and sat behind the wheel, the killers were standing outside the car. He knew them. One leaned with his hand on the edge of the window to talk. One of the killers pulled a gun. Three shots rang out. The killers ran from the alley. Their defenseless victim staggered out of the car onto the sidewalk where he fell mortally wounded in a pool of blood. John was still reading in bed when the killers ambushed and murdered his father. No telephone had been hooked up yet, and John had left word that he could be reached at a next-door neighbor's number in an emergency. The neighbor came over about fifteen or twenty minutes after nine with a message that something had happened at the office, and John needed to get down there as soon as he could. "They didn't tell me what it was," he recalled. "So I tore me a piece of paper, and stuck it in that book and laid it down. I ain't never finished it. Every time I see the book I think about that."

Today, that unread book is locked away in a bottom drawer of the desk in Patterson's study. He can't bring himself to resume reading the book, but he can't bear to part with it either. Keepsakes of his father's and his family's sacrifice are always around to remind him of that night of endless sorrow. Among them the book is all that ties him to the moment his father was struck down. The slip of paper he stuck between the pages is still there.

Reprinted with permission from NewSouth Books from Nobody But the People: The Life & Times of Alabama's Youngest Governor by Warren Trest. For more information on the book or to order a copy, please visit www.newsouthbooks.com/patterson or call 334-834-3556.



FEATURE

Ties that bind

Biography by Warren Trest traces life and times of John Patterson, Alabama's youngest governor

Feature Story

Ties that bind

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New biography traces life and times of Alabama's youngest governor

By: Jesse Chambers

It was November 22, 1963. Former Alabama governor John Patterson had just opened a new law office in Montgomery. He was sitting at his desk when his secretary came in.

"President Kennedy has just been shot in Dallas," she said.

She and Patterson turned on the television set.

"For the rest of the day we were all there watching that television, the whole rest of the day," Patterson says. "Terrible thing. Not only was it a bad thing, but I lost a real friend."

The unlikely bond between Patterson, a Southern populist, and John F. Kennedy, a northern liberal, as well as Patterson's troubled relationship with the President's brother, Robert F. Kennedy, is one of the compelling stories found in *Nobody But the People: The life and times of Alabama's youngest governor*, a biography of Patterson by Warren Trest, published by New South Books. Patterson and Trest were in Birmingham recently for a book signing at The Alabama Booksmith.



Nobody But the People covers Patterson's upbringing in rural Tallapoosa County, his service in World War II, and his law practice in Phenix City with his father, Albert, a WWI hero and inveterate Democratic

politician.

Albert Patterson was murdered in 1954 — his punishment for trying to help clean up Phenix City, a center for gambling and prostitution. An angry, grieving John Patterson won election that same year as state attorney general and fought to bring his father's killers to justice.

Patterson became governor in 1958, defeating George Wallace. The new governor fought for clean government, poured money into roads and schools, and dramatically increased old-age pensions. However, Patterson's national reputation was damaged — and his relationship with the Kennedys strained — by the violent confrontations related to the Civil Rights movement that occurred in Alabama on his watch.

He approved the participation of the Alabama Air National Guard in what was meant to be a non-combat role in the CIA's planned invasion of Fidel Castro's Cuba, only to later mourn the loss of four Alabama airmen at the Bay of Pigs.

Patterson did not run for re-election in 1962 because at the time, state law prohibited governors from serving consecutive terms. George Wallace became governor in 1962, and in 1966, Patterson lost his bid for a second term to Lurleen Wallace, wife of George Wallace.

In 1984, he became a judge with the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals, where he spent what he calls "21 of the best years of my whole life."

Trest began researching Patterson while writing a book about the Bay of Pigs.

"I started realizing that there's so much drama in this man's life, that somebody was slipping up badly by not having done a full-fledged biography," Trest says.

Patterson's relationship with the Kennedys is particularly compelling. Patterson had read John Kennedy's book, *Profiles in Courage*, before he met the young Massachusetts senator in Birmingham in 1957.

"He was quite knowledgeable about me, and how I happened to be attorney general and so forth, and then he asked me to come by his office and see him when I was in Washington," Patterson says.

Patterson accepted Kennedy's invitation and later visited JFK not just at his office but at his home in Georgetown. The two men became friends, and Patterson was convinced that the senator was destined to become president. Patterson agreed to support Kennedy's bid for the Democratic nomination in 1960. He was shocked at how much criticism he received in Alabama — even from his own Methodist minister — for supporting a Catholic. "I grew up in a home in which there was no anti-racial feeling, or anti-Semitic feeling, or anything like that, anti-Catholic feeling," Patterson says.

Patterson persisted in his support of Kennedy. He went to the Democratic convention in Los Angeles in 1960 and managed to deliver about half of the Alabama delegates to Kennedy, who was locked in a tight battle for the nomination with Texas Senator Lyndon B. Johnson. He loaned the campaign some of his own talented publicity people. He helped raise money.

Patterson also tipped off Kennedy about the CIA's planned Cuban invasion during a secret meeting at the Barclay Hotel in New York in the fall of 1960. Patterson had learned of the operation when Gen. Reid Doster of the Alabama Air National Guard and a CIA agent visited Patterson and asked for his permission to use the Guard in training Cuban pilots.

"I believed that this thing was going to be pulled off any morning before the election," Patterson says. "I had been told by Doster that it was a cinch." He was concerned that a successful invasion would ensure the election of the Republican nominee, Vice-President Richard Nixon.

According to Patterson, he told Kennedy about the planned operation and warned him not to say anything about it.

"There's a lot of people down there who might get killed as a result of this thing," he told Kennedy. He suggested that Kennedy needed to be prepared in case it happened.

"I watched him very carefully, but I couldn't read anything in his face at all," Patterson remembers. According to Patterson, he has since learned from the book *The Dark Side of Camelot* by Seymour Hersh, that Kennedy had not been briefed on the invasion.

"That was news to him, but he didn't let on one bit that it surprised him," Patterson says.

As it turned out, President Kennedy inherited the invasion plan from President Eisenhower and saw it fail miserably in April 1961. Patterson describes a luncheon he attended at the White House after the Bay of Pigs and the way in which Kennedy expressed his sadness over the four Alabama airmen who were killed. "He said, 'I hope that I live long enough to do something to recognize what those boys did from Alabama who lost their lives in that Bay of Pigs thing,'" Patterson recalls.

The relationship between Patterson and the Kennedys was effectively ended by their disagreements over how to handle the violence in Alabama connected with the Freedom Riders, a group of activists who were protesting segregation on interstate buses in the South.

"I thought that he and his brother were more concerned with their political survival than they were in anything else, including their friends," Patterson says. "I understand that you can't have friends in politics, and it's not a good thing to have friends when you're president, and you can't be bound by friendship when you're getting ready to do your duty and everything, but I didn't think that they treated me right in the Freedom Rider thing."

Patterson grew more disillusioned later after hearing rumors that the Kennedys had made a deal with organized crime. "When I found out that the President and his brother had made an agreement with Mafia figures in Chicago to assassinate Castro and, if they succeeded, in return they were to get their gambling casinos back in Havana, I begin to lose interest in those two fellows. I didn't like that one damn bit."

Patterson did not like Bobby Kennedy. "Bobby was just a cold-blooded fellow, and I don't think he had any loyalty in him to anybody, just personal ambition," he says. "Not so much with John F. as with Robert. Robert was as mean as a snake."

How did Patterson feel about RFK's run for the Democratic nomination for president in 1968? "I was never a supporter of his, in any way, and I wouldn't have supported him," he says. "I just didn't personally like him, and I didn't trust him."

Patterson always liked John F. Kennedy, however. "He was just a typical guy," Patterson says. "He was humorous. He was great company. He was just a regular guy to be with."

The former governor believes that his friendship with JFK went deeper than mere good times. "I knew that he trusted me," he says. "He would tell me things that he wouldn't tell anybody if he didn't trust them. I knew about some of his activities with girls and so forth, but I never told it, and he knew that I wouldn't tell."

"He deserved a better fate," Patterson says. "He really did."

Former Governor John Patterson and his biographer Warren Trest will do another book signing and speaking engagement at the Central Branch of the Birmingham Public Library on Tuesday, June 3, at 6:30 p.m., as part of the BPL @ Night series. For information, call 226-3631 or visit www.bplonline.org